

## **Olivia G. Rodriguez**

Speaker for the evening of the ACCW meeting January 17, 2014  
Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles

Susan Rose formerly of the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women. Currently affiliated with the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee; dedicated to furthering gender equality and other feminist values through political and social action, and educational activities. Susan Rose crafted child care policies former Councilwoman Joy Picus (Joy Picus was served on City Council for 16 years from 1977 to 1993). Joy Picus authored the city's Child Care Policy, "which made Los Angeles one of the first cities in the country to hire a full-time child-care coordinator."

- Susan Rose provided a short synopsis about who established women's councils. JFK started Councils for Women.
- Human Rights Watch rape kits backed logged AB 1517 Skinner Legislator.

### Issues Areas:

Data collection, there is a great need for data about women. California has the highest rate of poverty in the country and women are urged to collect data and urge politicians to do something about this.

The following have data about women's issues;

L.A. Women's Foundation

Mt. Saint Mary's College

The Shriver Report

### Lack of Women running for office: Urged women to run for Office

Emerge California (Women leaders for a democratic future)

Closing the Gender Gap

Ignite

Pathways to Policy

### Background on Pathways to Policy:

Young women from throughout California are invited to participate in an intensive training held in conjunction with the 2014 Women's Policy Summit to explore options and opportunities to pursue a career in public policy. Consider participating in Pathways to Policy: The CCRWF Mentoring Initiative for Young Women Leaders.

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## CA Women Lead

In 1974, a new organization called CEWAER (now CA Women Lead) was created and was the first of its kind nationwide. The need for a new organization had seemed apparent for a long time, partly because of the general dissatisfaction with the male power structure, the disproportionate number of elected women and the sense of aloneness felt by women who are elected and then must function in an isolated situation. Many women felt that elected women were more than role models, that they could use their influence and clout to help the aspirations of all women. And women recognized that they needed supporters, buddies, and a communication network – in other words, the counterpart to the “old boys club”.

Today, under-representation continues and women in California have not achieved parity. So our work continues. California Women Lead boasts nine chapters, hosts training events throughout the state and has encouraged thousands of women to successfully run for office or apply for an appointment at the state or local level. California Women Lead remains the only statewide, non-partisan women’s organization in the state committed to providing women the training and support they need to be successful in the political arena.